UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Thursday, March 19, 2026

You REALLY don't want to be in the wrong parking spot at Murphy Hall

Go ahead. Try and park here. Make my day!

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 132

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- FAQs for Senate Faculty about Possible Strike by UAW; Winter 2026
- Fight for the Future of Higher Education: Academic Freedom from the Classroom to the Clinic
- Our Concerns Over Revisions to APMs 15 and 16
- Fight for the Future of Higher Ed Town Hall
- Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 50. When Will UCOP Stop Hurting UC Campuses? - 3/24/2026
- A Joint MESA-AAUP Report Shows the Corruption of Anti-Semitism Charges (Guest Post) - 3/23/2026
- Liner Note 49. University Voice Under a Necro-President - 3/9/2026

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

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Search

UC Faculty Associations

- UCLA Faculty Association
- UCSB Faculty Association
- UCSC Faculty Association
- UCB Faculty Association
- Council of UC Faculty Associations

Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

From the Harvard Crimson: *Mady Corrigan, a Ph.D. student in Materials Science and Mechanical Engineering at Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, used to spend most of her time on research. Now, she spends a significant part of it fixing equipment. Since SEAS Dean David C. Parkes announced plans last October to lay off roughly 25 percent of the school's clerical and technical union workers — along with other staff, totaling about 40 positions — Corrigan's lab has lost both its research technician and its lab manager...*

The layoffs followed a convergence of financial pressures on Harvard: a sharp increase in the federal tax on the University's endowment, upended federal research funding, and what Parkes described in an October email as a budgetary gap the school could not close through other cost-cutting measures alone. In the months since the cuts took effect, the consequences have rippled beyond the school's budget. In interviews, around a dozen students and staff members described a school grappling with diminished support and growing gaps in the day-to-day operations that keep labs running, courses staffed, and students advised...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/3/16/impact-of-seas-layoffs/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:40 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard

Disability Creep

Rank	School	Fall 2023	Fall 2013
144	University of California-Santa Cruz	19.5%	No more than 3%
341	University of California-Berkeley	13.3%	No more than 3%
620	University of California-Davis	9.0%	No more than 3%
756	University of California-Santa Barbara	7.8%	No more than 3%
1,033	University of California-Los Angeles	4.8%	4%
1,060	University of California-Irvine	4.5%	No more than 3%
1,115	University of California-Merced	3.8%	No more than 3%
1,154	University of California-San Diego	No more than 3%	No more than 3%
1,154	University of California-Riverside	No more than 3%	No more than 3%

There has been increasing concern about the rising proportion of undergraduate students claiming disabilities on college campuses. Most of the UC campuses show that trend. Disabled students can receive accommodations on tests and other assignments. But the rise seems prominent in a number of private universities. The San Francisco Chronicle has a search option for looking at the trend.

From Fall 2013 to Fall 2023:

- Stanford (top of the list in Fall 2023): 7% to 38.2%
- Dartmouth: 7% to 15.8%
- Cornell: 6% to 21.6%
- Harvard: no more than 3% to 21.0%
- Brown: 10% to 22.0%
- Yale: 8% to 19.8%
- Columbia: 6% to 14.3%
- Princeton: no more than 3% to 15.5%
- U of Pennsylvania: 6% to 15.0%

Topics

politics (2448) UC (2132) UC Regents (1904) health care (1437) State Budget (1280) governor (1130) diversity (1005) UC budget crisis (975) UC-Berkeley (921) pension (663) pensions (594) admissions (555) athletics (550) tuition (535) CSU (419) transportation (401) UC-Davis (378) online education (339) UCOP (316) uc retirement (309) traffic (304) ucrp (301) audio (291) UC enrollment (284) new hotel-conference center (282) UC-San Diego (267) enrollment (261) community colleges (249) LAO (236) UC-Irvine (185) fund raising (171) UC-Santa Barbara (163) UC-San Francisco (160) UC-Santa Cruz (159) controller (150) faculty center (144) UC-Riverside (142) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (122) UC-Merced (117) Master Plan (110) faculty pay (109) Yudof (90) UCRS retirement (62) Faculty Association at UCLA (61) parking (61) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) UC Berkeley (35) copyright (35) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (22) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) Regents (15) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UCpolitics (4) UC Irvine (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

Blog Archive

▼ 2026 (330)

▼ March (111)

What Agostini Said About Intercollegiate Athletics

Straws in the Wind - Part 298

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 135

Revising Discipline

Straws in the Wind - Part 297

Getting In - Part 3

Watch the Afternoon Meetings of the Regents: March...

Straws in the Wind - Part 296

Getting In - Part 2

He ain't here... (for budget explanations) - Part ...

Watch the Morning Meetings of the Regents: March 1...

Straws in the Wind - Part 295

Getting In

He ain't here... (for budget explanations) - Part 3

Dalia Dassa Kaye of the UCLA

- USC: no more than 3% to 13.0%
- CalTech: no more than 3% to 11.7%

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*https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/stanford-disabled-disability-student-21361362.php.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: Brown University, CalTech, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, diversity, Harvard, health care, Princeton U, Stanford, U of Pennsylvania, UC, USC, Yale

Straws in the Wind - Part 285

From Inside Higher Ed: *Universities in Bangladesh and Pakistan have been forced to close campuses and move teaching online as governments introduce emergency measures to conserve electricity and fuel amid an energy crisis linked to conflict in the Middle East. Similar conservation measures are being introduced elsewhere in the region. In the Philippines, government agencies, including state universities, have been instructed to cut fuel consumption by at least 10 percent in recent days. Many Asian economies are particularly vulnerable to sustained oil price shocks because of their reliance on imported energy, according to ING, a banking and financial services group.*

...University campuses consume large amounts of electricity to operate residential halls, classrooms, laboratories and air-conditioning systems, meaning the early closure could significantly reduce demand, according to officials...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/global/2026/03/13/asian-campuses-shut-save-energy-amid-middle-east-conflict.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Big

On Wednesday, UCLA is seeking Regental approval to go ahead with a student housing project at 901 Levering Avenue in Westwood. A current low-rise structure at that location would be replaced with a 19-story apartment house containing 142 apartments with 1,130 student inhabitants. (The existing structure - shown below - to be replaced contains 52 students.) An additional 4 apartments would be for supervisory personnel. Financing costs would be almost $281 million with addition funding from housing "reserves" of around $70 million. All borrowing would be undertaken by the UCLA housing enterprise; UC (the Regents) would not be at risk.

The business plan for the property promises that the apartments would rented for 18% below market.

A full description can be found at:

https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/mar26/f4.pdf.

Burkle Center on Iran...
Spinoff
Straws in the Wind - Part 294
UC-San Diego Med School Admissions Investigation
Time to Reconsider?
Straws in the Wind - Part 293
New and Renewed Regents
Ex Officio: A Brief Look at the Governor's Proposal
Straws in the Wind - Part 292
Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 134
Watch the Regents Meeting of March 17, 2026
Straws in the Wind - Part 291
Westwood Boulevard Project
Straws in the Wind - Part 290
Averted Strike: Contract Now Ratified
He ain't here... (for budget explanations) - Part 2
Straws in the Wind - Part 289
UC-Berkeley Settles Antisemitism Lawsuit
Straws in the Wind - Part 288
Traffic Squeeze in Sepulveda Pass This Weekend
Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 1...
He ain't here... (for budget explanations)
Straws in the Wind - Part 287
Deletion
Maybe leaving the name would be the best solution
Want something to worry about?
Straws in the Wind - Part 286
You REALLY don't want to be in the wrong parking s...
Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 132
Disability Creep
Straws in the Wind - Part 285
Big
Straws in the Wind - Part 284
The Budget: First, let's preserve. Then let's ques...
New Off-Campus Health Complex
Straws in the Wind - Part 283
There's one thing you can be sure of...
UC Hospital Scrutiny Coming
Straws in the Wind - Part 282
Disappeared - Part 2
Lawsuit by the State
UPDATE: No Strike News
Sanctions
Straws in the Wind - Part 281
Changing Westwood

Existing Structure at 901 Levering Ave.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 284

From the Columbia Daily Spectator: *Barnard reopened select campus entrances to Barnard and Columbia ID holders following the completion of new perimeter security upgrades, Kelli Murray, Barnard executive vice president for strategy and chief administrative officer, announced in a March 2 email to the Barnard community. Under the new policy, Barnard and Columbia ID holders will have expanded access hours to the single-entry turnstile doors at the Milbank Hall*

(Possible) Strike News
The Budget: First, let's preserve. Then let's ques...
Free
Straws in the Wind - Part 280
The Way We Live Now
Iran War
Medicare Disadvantage
Another Forecast
Straws in the Wind - Part 279
They Got Him!
Straws in the Wind - Part 278
Lucky Me: Second Time I've Won!
Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 131
More Bargaining News
Straws in the Wind - Part 277
Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 130
Murphy Hall responds to Senate
March Regents Meetings at UC-San Francisco
Straws in the Wind - Part 276
Now Two Months at a Time
The Budget: First, let's preserve. Then let's ques...
Straws in the Wind - Part 275
Did You Spring Forward?
By the book at Davis
Straws in the Wind - Part 274
Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 129
'Age-friendly' campus
Straws in the Wind - Part 273
LAO on UC
Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 128
Bond
Big Health Donation
Straws in the Wind - Part 272
UCLA is delighted to lend a hand...
UCLA Forecast
UCLA PD scam calls
Bargaining News
Straws in the Wind - Part 271
I Never Promised You a Rose Bowl? - Part 16
Tightening
Straws in the Wind - Part 270
► February (106)
► January (113)
► 2025 (1139)
► 2024 (832)
► 2023 (828)
► 2022 (719)
► 2021 (710)

entrance on West 120th Street and at the 40 Claremont Avenue entrance to the Milstein Center for Teaching and Learning. The Milstein entrance is open to faculty, staff, and students around the clock; while faculty and staff have 24/7 access at both locations, student access at Milbank is limited to weekdays from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Murray wrote in the email that the entrances are now equipped with "fully operational, actively monitored camera systems and single-entry turnstiles," adding that the combination of the two systems is "what allows us to provide 24/7 perimeter access safely at these locations." The expansion comes amid a years-long tightening of Barnard's campus perimeter, largely driven by the college's efforts to suppress on-campus protest activity. The college initially closed secondary entrances in anticipation of fall 2023 protests over the war in Gaza, but took further action during the spring 2024 "Gaza Solidarity Encampment" on Columbia's campus by narrowing access to the main gate at 117th Street and Broadway for Barnard and Columbia ID holders and shutting down all others.

...The upgrades reflect Barnard's broader move toward automated campus entry systems, following changes to its security staffing. In July, amid a financial debt crisis, the college laid off 77 staff members—including desk attendants who previously monitored entrances to the Barnard Quad residence halls. Those positions were then replaced with ID scanners at the Quad's entry points...

Full story at https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2026/03/09/barnard-expands-access-hours-at-select-entry-points-following-security-upgrades.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

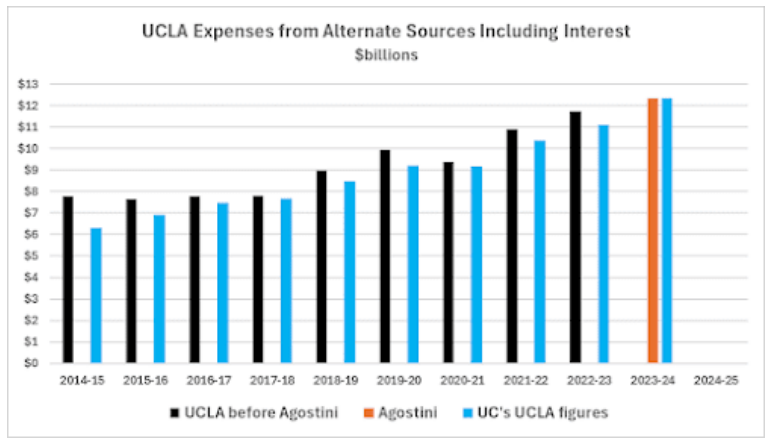
Labels: Barnard

The Budget: First, let's preserve. Then let's question - Part 4 (adding revenue & expense)

In our last iteration of looking at UCLA budget documents versus UC's version of UCLA's budget, we focused on the expense side. It appeared that the (unaudited) financial statements issued before former CFO Agostini came on board tended to produce higher expenditure figures than those arising from (audited) UC documents. CFO Agostini called into question the validity of past UCLA statements (implicating administrators who had responsibility for accurate reporting), and got himself fired.

Let's now look at expenditures (previously discussed*), revenues, and surpluses and deficits (revenues minus expenditures).

The top chart below - which blog readers have already seen - shows the expenditure side. The middle chart shows revenues. And the bottom chart shows surpluses and deficits.



► 2020 (914)
► 2019 (671)
► 2018 (595)
► 2017 (666)
► 2016 (715)
► 2015 (765)
► 2014 (704)
► 2013 (776)
► 2012 (839)
► 2011 (738)
► 2010 (431)
► 2009 (12)

Contributors

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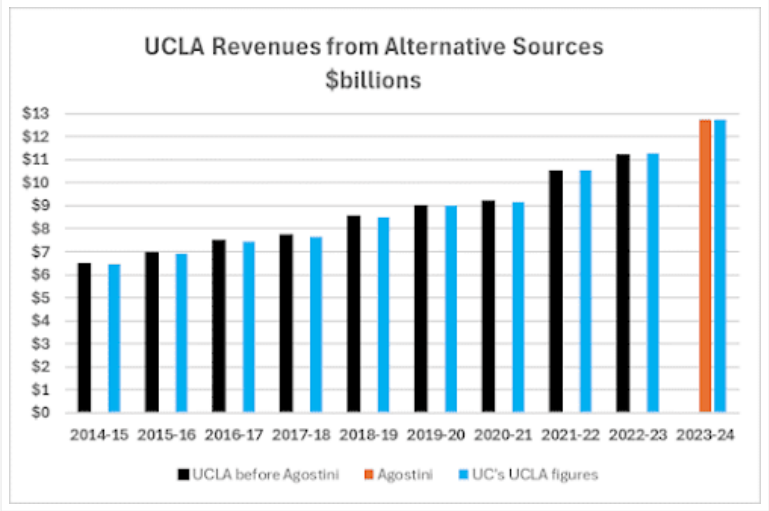

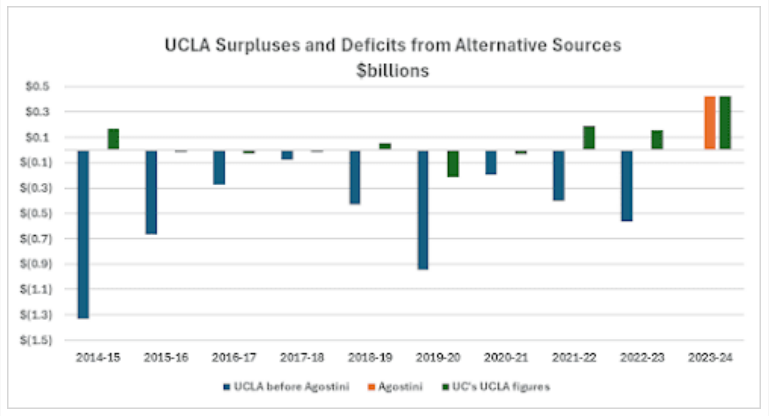

The top chart shows expenditures as UCLA presented them running above UC's version of those expenditures. In contrast, the middle chart shows that the revenue figures from the two alternative sources run close together. The bottom chart shows that UCLA's pre-Agostini figures show the campus to be running a chronic deficit. But UC's version of the financials, with their lower expenditures, shows a mix of surpluses and deficits. It appears that Agostini based his budget book figures for 2023-24 on UC's figures since his estimates seem to match UC's figures for that fiscal year.

There are some caveats to note. First, none of the figures are current. Agostini's budget book had macro figures for 2023-24, but only unit (micro) figures for 2024-25. The old UCLA-derived series ends in 2022-23.

Second, when you look at the macro level, you are seeing everything from hospital revenues to state allocations to professional school supplementary tuitions, etc. Many of the revenue sources are not fungible, i.e., you can't take someone's payment for cancer treatment at the hospital and use it instead to hire an administrative assistant for the English Department.

Third, the unit level (micro) figures that Agostini provided show some units with surpluses and others with deficits. But at the unit level, revenues are often allocations by someone. For example, the Academic Senate is said to be running a deficit, i.e., expenditures > revenue, in the budget book. But the revenue of the Senate is an allocation. The Senate isn't a fee-for-service operation. If it were given a bigger allocation, it could be in surplus. Some other unit, of course, would presumably get less as a result, were such a reallocation to the Senate made. Thus, much of a unit's financial position is really a choice of allocation, i.e., a judgment as to what a particular activity is worth. It is not the same as a commercial business running in the red or in the black. The budget book does not reveal how the unit allocations of revenue are made.

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NOTE: We have taken Agostini's budget book data for units and aggregated them using an AI program. Some analysis will be presented in a later post.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

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